3-month summary

• There is a slightly increased chance of a warm 3-month period, with reduced chance of a cooler period compared to normal.
• There is a moderately increased likelihood, compared to normal, of a wet period. However, the chance of a dry period is still close to normal.
• The chances of a windy period are moderately higher than normal.

3-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

10% chance the season will be COOL	65% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	25% chance the season will be WARM
0.5× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	1.3× the normal chance

Precipitation

20% chance the season will be DRY	50% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	30% chance the season will be WET
1.0× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance	1.5× the normal chance

Wind speed

15% chance the season will be CALM	60% chance the season will be NEAR AVERAGE	25% chance the season will be WINDY
0.8× the normal chance	1.0× the normal chance	1.3× the normal chance

1-month summary

- The chance of a wet month is marginally lower than normal.
- Impacts from rainfall are still possible during April, particularly in the south.
- The likelihood of a warm or cool month is fairly balanced.
- This does mean that there is still a risk of impacts from cold weather, particularly in the north and early in the month.
- There is a reduced chance of a windy month compared to normal.

1-month likelihood of impact

Temperature

20% chance the month will be COOL	65% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	15% chance the month will be WARM
1.0× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance

Precipitation

20% chance the month will be DRY	65% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	15% chance the month will be WET
1.0× the normal chance	1.1× the normal chance	0.8× the normal chance

Wind speed

20% chance the month will be CALM	70% chance the month will be NEAR AVERAGE	10% chance the month will be WINDY
1.0× the normal chance	1.2× the normal chance	0.5× the normal chance

Understanding the Outlook

The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature, precipitation and wind speed in the next 1 and 3 months:

COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for temperature
WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation
CALM, NEAR AVERAGE and WINDY for wind speed

These are linked to observed UK conditions in past years. The NEAR AVERAGE category represents typical conditions for the period and has a normal likelihood of 60%. The higher and lower categories represent more unusual conditions that are more likely to produce impacts. Each has a normal likelihood of 20%.

The Outlook shows how the chances of occurrence of the categories differ from normal, based on knowledge of expected global meteorological patterns. It does not identify which category will actually occur.

Same 3-month period over the last 10 years

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023
WARM COOL NEAR AVERAGE WARM WARM NEAR AVERAGE WARM COOL NEAR AVERAGE WARM
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY NEAR AVERAGE DRY DRY DRY DRY
CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM

Same 1-month period over the last 10 years

2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021 2022 2023
WARM NEAR AVERAGE COOL NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE WARM COOL NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE DRY DRY NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE
NEAR AVERAGE CALM NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE NEAR AVERAGE CALM CALM NEAR AVERAGE CALM

Outlook in context

Drivers of UK weather for April to June
Global weather patterns can affect UK weather during the coming season and their influence acts to shift the chances of the categories in the Outlook. However, the influence of some of these drivers on the UK climate tends to be small at this time of year.
Drivers relevant to the current Outlook include:
• The warming of UK climate consistent with wider global warming trends.
• The influence of the on-going El Nino event is now waning as the event is likely to come to an end over the coming months.
• A displaced polar stratospheric flow, which reduces the strength of westerly winds, particularly through the first part of this period.

Long-range weather predictions
The Met Office and other prediction centres around the world routinely produce long-range forecasts of conditions in the months ahead. There are indications that during April, there is an increased chance compared to normal of lower pressure over, or close to the south of the UK with higher pressure to the north of the UK. This results in greater likelihood of weather systems tracking across the country further south than usual. This would result in southern areas are being wetter-than-average with northern areas drier-than-average. As the season progresses the signals become smaller, but with greater chances of a more usual track for weather systems.

Impacts
Although there is a marginally reduced chance of a wet start to the season compared to normal, given the current state of the ground following a particularly wet period for much of the UK, impacts from rainfall are still possible. In fact, with the signal for low pressure to be over, or to the south of the UK, southern areas are more likely to be wetter-than-average and so could see an increased chance of impacts from heavy rain compared to normal. As the season progresses there is a moderately greater chance compared to normal of a wet season for the UK overall. There are some hints of a return to more normal rainfall distribution with the largest totals for the furthest north and western parts of the UK.
There is an increased likelihood of easterly winds at times over the north during April. This would draw some colder air towards the UK allowing a chance of some wintry hazards, primarily over high ground in the north during the early part of the month. This influence also acts to limit the likelihood of warm conditions more widely. As the season progresses, there is a slightly increased chance compared to normal of a warm season, corresponding to an increasing chance of losing this cooling influence and the warming of the UK climate.

Outlook compared to normal likelihood

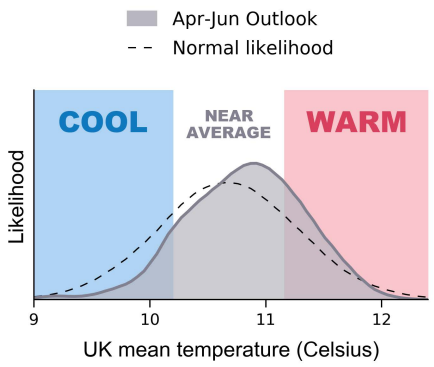
The curves below show the likelihood of the 1- and 3-month average temperature, precipitation and wind speed taking specific values. In each case:

- The dashed curve shows the normal likelihood based on how often each value has been recorded in past years
- The solid curve shows the current likelihood based on the Outlook for this year

The differences in these curves show how the probabilities for the coming periods differ compared to past years. Where the solid curve (corresponding to this year's Outlook) lies above the dashed curve (normal likelihood), the temperature, precipitation or wind speed at that point has a greater-than-normal likelihood of occurring. Likewise, wherever it is below the dashed curve, the likelihood of those values is less than normal.

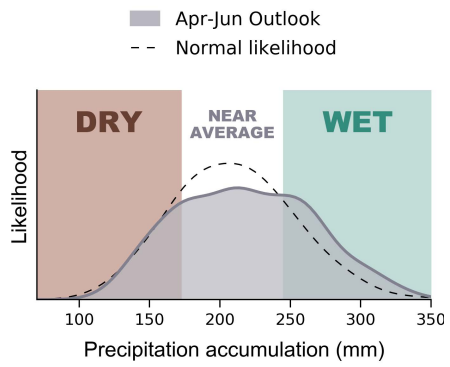
A shift of the solid curve to the left of the dashed curve indicates an increase in the chances of below-average temperature, rainfall or winds. A shift to the right, meanwhile, indicates increased chances of above-average values.

3-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



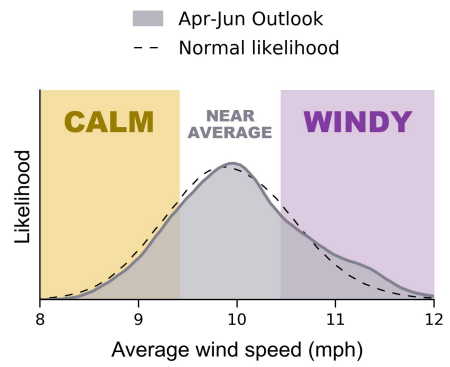
Lean towards a warm season

3-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



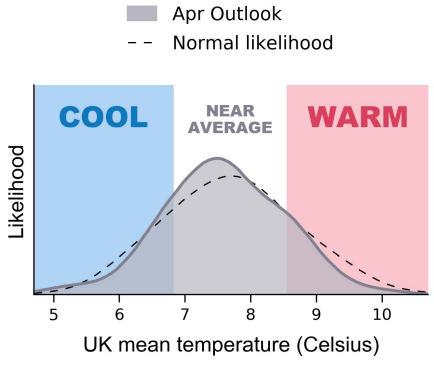
Lean towards a wet season

3-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



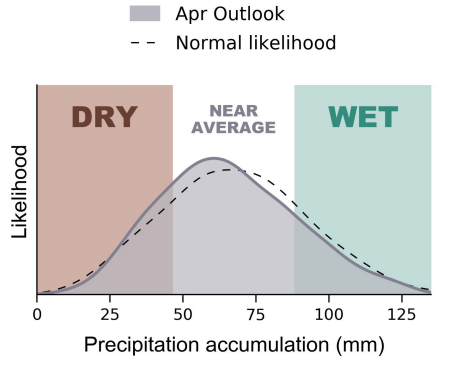
Slightly increased chance of a windy season

1-month temperature Outlook compared to normal



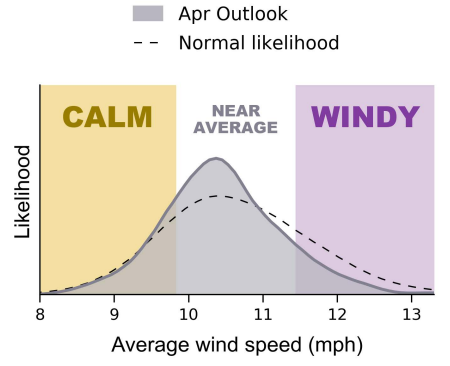
Balanced chances of a warm or cool month

1-month precipitation Outlook compared to normal



Slight lean away from a wet month

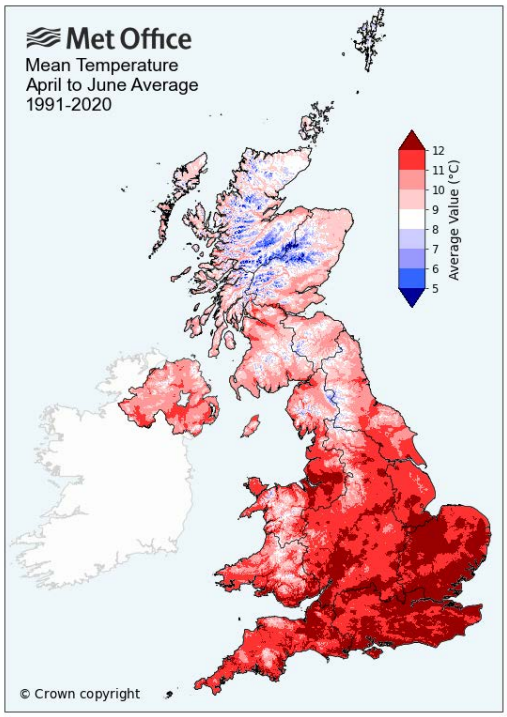
1-month wind speed Outlook compared to normal



Lean away from a windy month

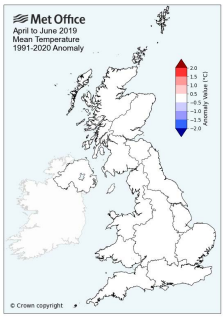
Long-term average temperatures (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

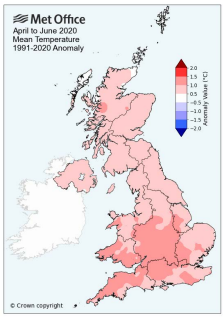


Average temperatures for April - June based on observations of past years.

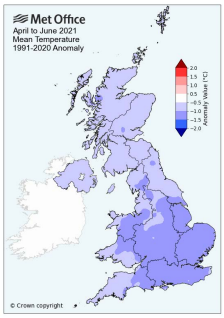
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (3-month)



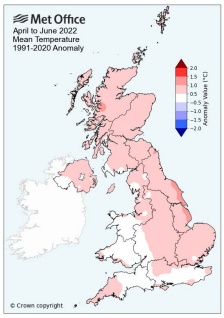
Apr - Jun 2019



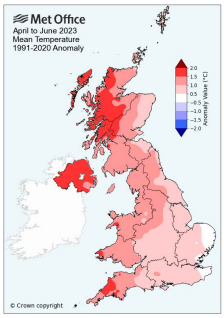
Apr - Jun 2020



Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023

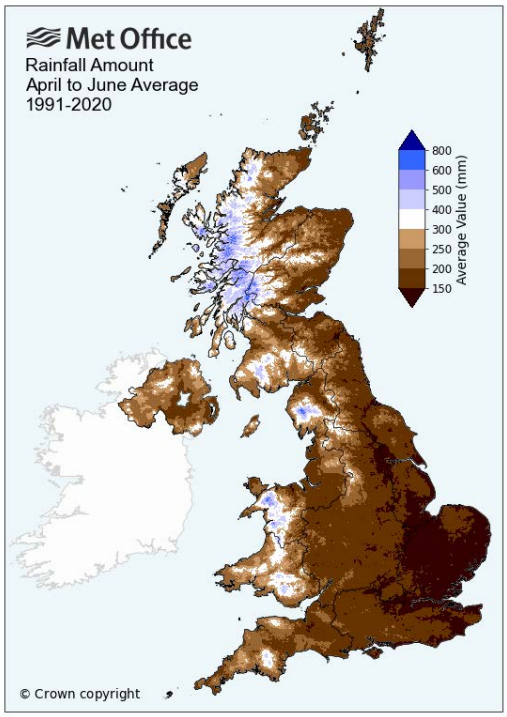
Anomaly (°C)

< -2.0	-2.0 to -1.5	-1.5 to -1.0	-1.0 to-0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.0	1.0 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.0	> 2.0

These maps show how April - June temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

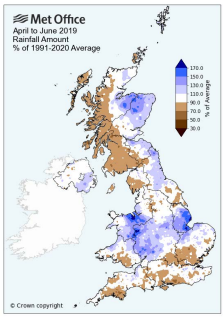
Long-term average precipitation (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

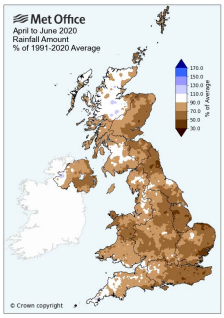


Average precipitation for April - June based on observations of past years.

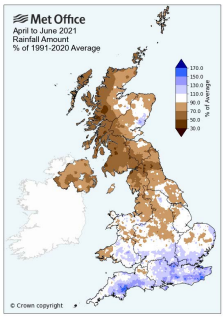
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (3-month)



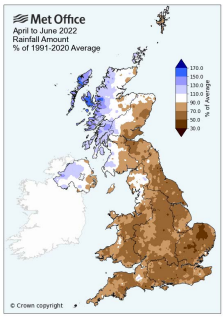
Apr - Jun 2019



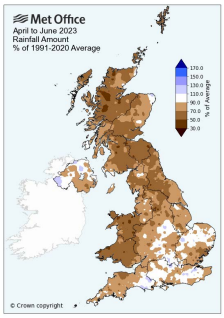
Apr - Jun 2020



Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023

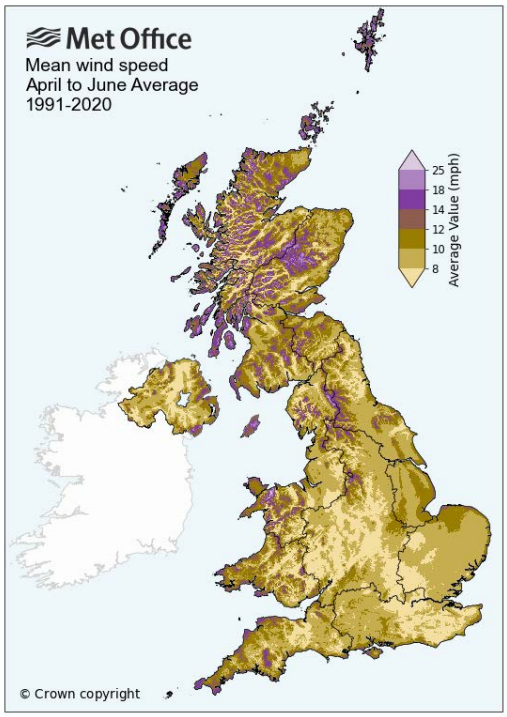
% of average

< 30	30 to 50	50 to 70	70 to 90	90 to 110	110 to 130	130 to 150	150 to 170	> 170

These maps show how April - June precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

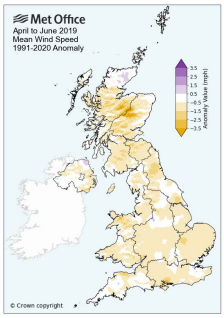
Long-term average wind speed (3-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 3-month Outlook period.

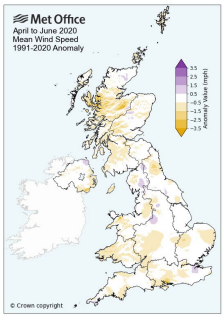


Average wind speed for April - June based on observations of past years.

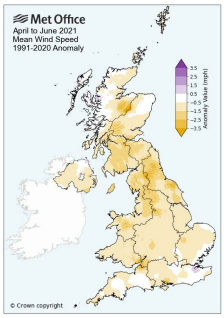
Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (3-month)



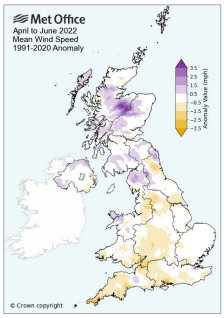
Apr - Jun 2019



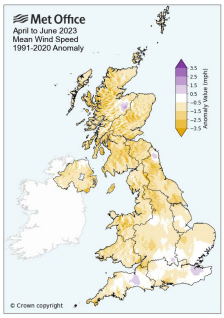
Apr - Jun 2020



Apr - Jun 2021



Apr - Jun 2022



Apr - Jun 2023

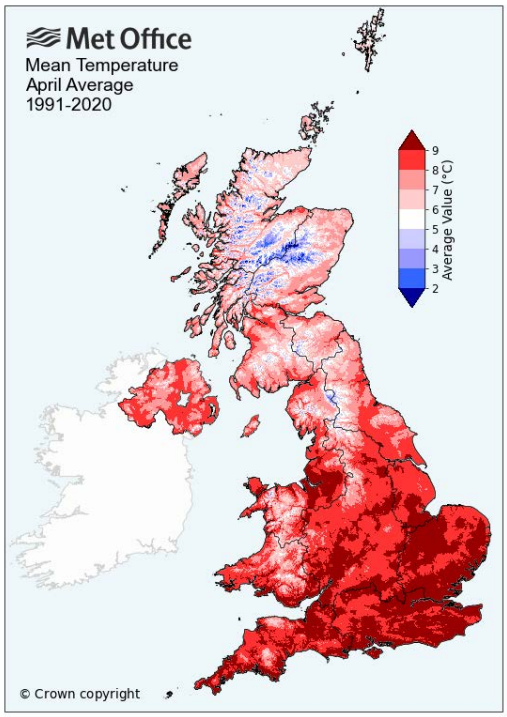
Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how April - June wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

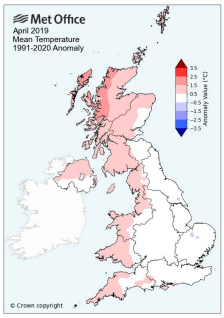
Long-term average temperatures (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average temperatures across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

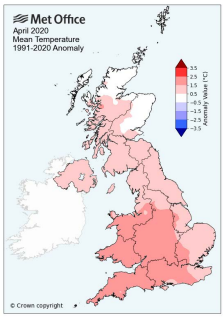


Average temperatures for April based on observations of past years.

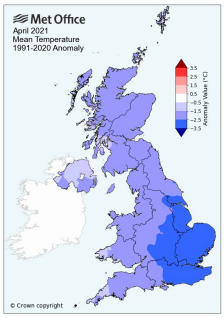
Last 5 years temperatures, difference from average (1-month)



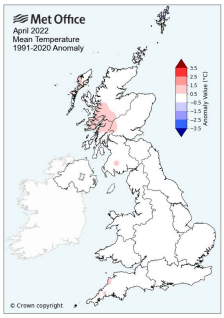
Apr 2019



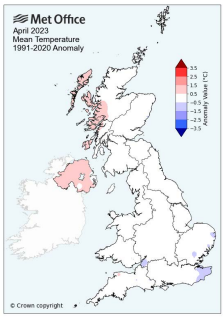
Apr 2020



Apr 2021



Apr 2022



Apr 2023

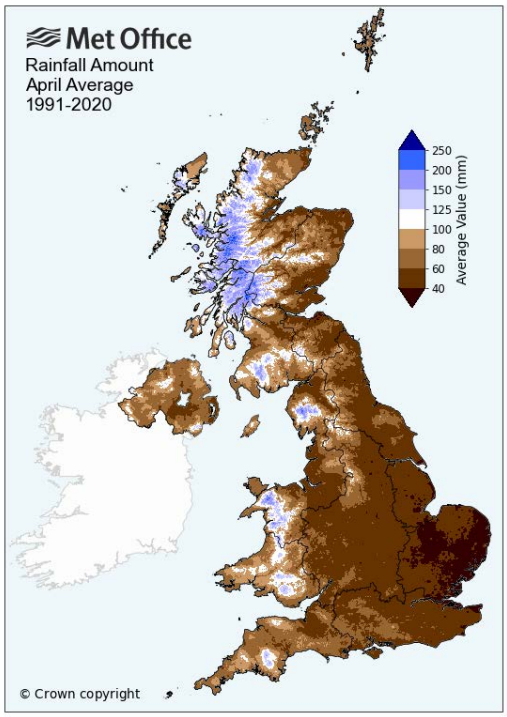
Anomaly (°C)

< -3.5	-3.5 to -2.5	-2.5 to -1.5	-1.5 to -0.5	-0.5 to 0.5	0.5 to 1.5	1.5 to 2.5	2.5 to 3.5	> 3.5

These maps show how April temperatures in the last five years differed from the long-term average temperatures shown above in the upper panel. Pink and red colours indicate warmer-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate cooler-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

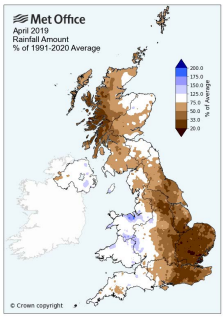
Long-term average precipitation (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average precipitation across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.

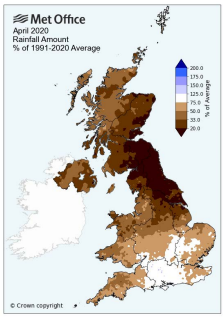


Average precipitation for April based on observations of past years.

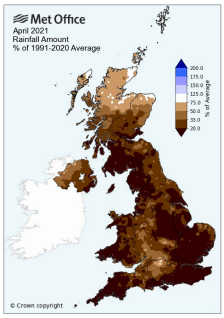
Last 5 years precipitation, difference from average (1-month)



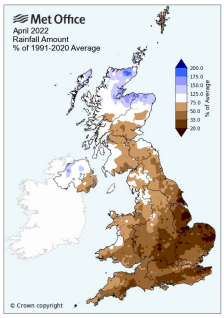
Apr 2019



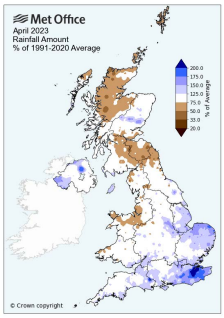
Apr 2020



Apr 2021



Apr 2022



Apr 2023

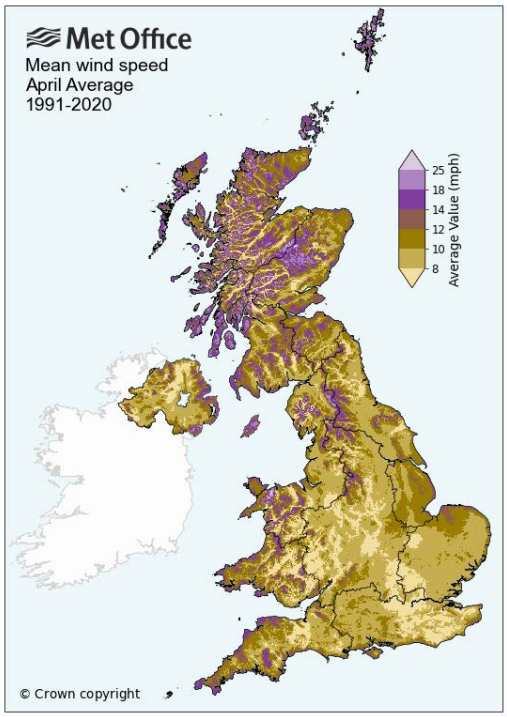
% of average

< 20	20 to 33	33 to 50	50 to 75	75 to 125	125 to 150	150 to 175	175 to 200	> 200

These maps show how April precipitation in the last five years differed from the long-term average precipitation shown above in the upper panel. Brown colours indicate drier-than-average conditions while blue shades indicate wetter-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

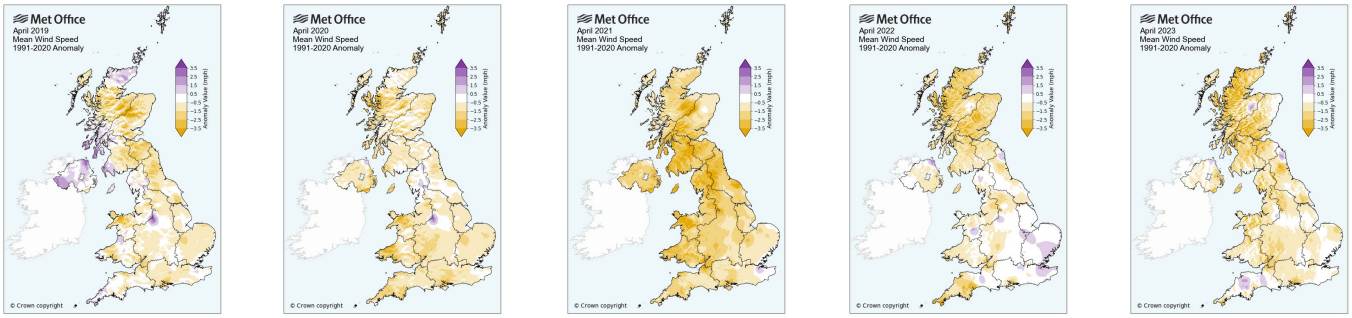
Long-term average wind speed (1-month)

This page shows the long-term average wind speed across the UK applicable to the 1-month Outlook period.



Average wind speed for April based on observations of past years.

Last 5 years wind speed, difference from average (1-month)



Apr 2019 | Apr 2020 | Apr 2021 | Apr 2022 | Apr 2023

Anomaly (mph)

< -3.5 | -3.5 to -2.5 | -2.5 to -1.5 | -1.5 to -0.5 | -0.5 to 0.5 | 0.5 to 1.5 | 1.5 to 2.5 | 2.5 to 3.5 | > 3.5

These maps show how April wind speed in the last five years differed from the long-term average wind speeds shown above in the upper panel. Yellow colours indicate calmer-than-average conditions while purple shades indicate windier-than-average conditions. Detailed information on the climate of the UK is available at www.metoffice.gov.uk/climate.

Q&As

Q. What is the point of the Outlook, who is it meant for?
A. This Outlook is produced for planners in government and business who make risk-based decisions. These users are aware of the complexities of this type of outlook and will include those factors in their decision-making process.

Q. How did you decide on the Outlook? What are the main factors affecting it?
A. It is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. See the 'Outlook in Context' section of the Outlook for more details.

Q. Is the Outlook for the whole country?
A. The Outlook is for the average of conditions over the UK as a whole. Regional deviations from the UK-average can occur. For example, average UK precipitation can result from below-average rainfall for the northwest and above-average for the southeast.

Q. How confident are you in this Outlook?
A. The percentages in the 'Likelihood of Impact' sections of the Outlook give the level of confidence.

Q. With increased likelihood of a wet period, compared to normal, are we likely to see flooding?
A. With the chance of wet weather in this period increased compared to normal, and given the wet weather so far this year, there remains an increased chance of impacts from heavy rain. While the Outlook suggests the chance of wet conditions is greater in the south it cannot specify the severity, location, duration, or timings of specific weather events and therefore details of any potential impacts. Keep up to date with the latest National Severe Weather Warnings and forecast information for your area on our forecast pages and check the risk of flooding in your areas via the Environment Agency, SEPA, Natural Resources Wales and NI Direct websites.

Q. Does the ongoing El Niño mean we will see a heatwave this summer?
A.The current El Nino is now waning and its influence on weather in the UK will reduce as we go through this period. As a consequence, it will not have a large impact on weather this summer. The El Nino will have an effect on global mean temperatures for months to come, but this is largely through storage of heat in the tropical oceans. At the UK's latitude, the summer's weather will be more influenced by the prevailing winds that we experience. While this Outlook suggests a slightly increased chance of a warmer period, average temperatures are lower in spring than summer, and warmer-than-average conditions could just reflect a mix of hot and cool days, warm nights, or less extreme levels of warmth.

About the Outlook

The Outlook presented here is for United Kingdom as a whole and is based on information from observations, several numerical prediction systems and expert judgement. It is updated monthly to reflect the latest information on global weather patterns and their effect on the UK. The Outlook is designed to be used in conjunction with shorter-range forecasts – detailed weather forecast information is available on the Met Office website.

In this product, temperature refers to the average of daytime maxima and night-time minima. Wind speed refers to the average wind speed at a height of 10 metres. All numerical values relate to averages (temperature, wind speed) or totals (precipitation – rain, sleet, snow and hail) over 1 or 3 months, which are further averaged over the UK land area as a whole. Normal likelihood and long-term averages are established using the period 1991-2020.

Find out more

- UK 3-month Outlook user guidance page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/user-guidance/user-guidance
- Explainers on climate drivers (such as the El Niño Southern Oscillation and North Atlantic Oscillation) that influence seasonal forecasts and the impacts they can have on UK weather:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/seasonal-forecasts-and-climate-drivers-resources
- Contingency planners page:
  https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index

Contact us

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Provide your feedback

We would like to hear your feedback on the UK 3-month Outlook to understand how it is being used. Please fill in the short form using this link or QR code to share your thoughts.